



WEATHER PROGRAM OFFICE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

GENERAL FINANCIAL AWARD INFORMATION

This page is intended to provide basic, general information about WPO's financial awards. For the most in-depth and up-to-date information about NOAA's visit the Acquisition and Grants Office website or directly contact the experts at the Grants Management Division.

FUNDING SOLICITATIONS

WPO funds projects through a number of methods. Most funding opportunities are competitive, proposal-based funding opportunities, while others are targeted agreements. By leveraging different award approaches, WPO maximizes its ability to find and fund world-class physical and social science research, and empower researchers and their projects to achieve their potential. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of the approaches WPO utilizes.

1. **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** contains multiple competitions with varied science priorities. Most WPO NOFOs target external (non-federal) research institutions such as universities, cooperative institutes, and commercial or non-profit organizations, but internal competitions also exist to support OAR Laboratories and other NOAA researchers. Proposals compete for funding in calls that may prioritize developmental research at low Readiness Levels, or transitionable research at high Readiness Levels. Specific competitions take place at the discretion of WPO's Program Managers and depend largely on funding availability.
2. **Broad Agency Announcements (BAA)** are open funding opportunities to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through NOAA's competitive discretionary programs.
3. **Service Level Agreements (SLA)** are internal agreements to support research across line offices. For example, WPO supports a number of projects through the Climate SLA, which connects researchers at OAR Labs with the NWS Climate Prediction Center.
4. **Supplemental Funding** is awarded through Acts of Congress and are separate or supplemental to our regular budget. WPO works across other NOAA Line Offices to manage the research funding.
5. **Contracts** are binding agreements between a buyer and a seller to provide goods or services and procure goods or services. Rather than supporting research ideas conceived

by principal investigators, contracts support work toward specified goals outlined by the project sponsor. Federal contracts are subject to a strict set of terms and conditions, including clauses from the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). For example, a significant amount of work is taking place within the EPIC program as part of a contract with Raytheon Technologies.

6. **Co-Managed Projects** are funded through WPO, the NOAA Weather Portfolio, NOAA Laboratories, or other sources and may be selected competitively or non-competitively. In FY21, WPO supported a number of co-managed projects as part of the VORTEX-SE / VORTEX-USA (co-managed with NSSL), Social Science (National Science Foundation), Precipitation Grand Challenge (Weather Portfolio), UFS R2O (NOAA Modeling Board) programs, and more.

AWARD MECHANISMS

When administering financial awards, WPO follows procedures set by the Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) and Grants Management Division (GMD). WPO utilizes grants, cooperative agreements, interagency agreements (IAA), contracts, and budget operating plan (BOP) transactions to provide funding.

Most external research (taking place outside of NOAA) awards, including those funded through the annual NOFO, are funded using grants and cooperative agreements.

A **Grant** or **Cooperative Agreement** is the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between NOAA and a recipient whenever the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer anything of value in order to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute. A grant is used when no substantial involvement is anticipated between NOAA and the recipient during the performance of the contemplated activity. A Cooperative Agreement is used if substantial involvement (e.g., collaboration, participation, or intervention by NOAA in the management of the project) is anticipated between NOAA and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity. Most WPO awards funding work that intends to transition an output to operations (such as to NWS) require rigorous coordination to plan and execute the transition, and as a result are funded as cooperative agreements. Approximately 45% of WPO's funding supports grants & cooperative agreements.

Interagency Agreements (IAAs) are used to transfer funding from NOAA to another federal institution, such as at non-NOAA government laboratories, military institutions, or others.

Budget Operating Plans (BOPs) allow for internal (within NOAA) transfers of funds and are a primary method for directly funding R&D at NOAA Laboratories, Operating Centers, Program Offices, and other NOAA organizations.

CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

All NOAA grants and cooperative agreements require recipients to complete periodic **Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs)**. During the reporting process, grantees are required to provide updated information on projects and data management plans. RPPRs are submitted via the Grants Online system and utilize standard forms used across the U.S. Government. Additional information on WPO's progress reporting requirements are provided to award recipients by their funding and management program.

Specific Award Conditions (SACs) may be required in certain circumstances by WPO's programs. Common SACs for WPO awards include, but are not limited to, specifications that prevent awards from being used for contractual work, requirements of transition plans, outlining relationships to Cooperative Institute agreements, guidance for multi-year funding, and requirements for Internal Review Board (IRB) approval of experiments involving human participants.

For most research projects funded through grants and cooperative agreements, the recipient may grant themselves a one-time "**no-cost extension**" for up to 12 months without prior approval from NOAA. For research projects with prior approval waived, the "no-cost extension" must be submitted 10 days prior to the period of performance end date.

If proposed projects may have an **environmental impact** will be asked to furnish sufficient information to assist NOAA in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project. NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for each project which seeks NOAA funding. Detailed information on NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website:

<http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>.

Final pre-publication **manuscripts of scholarly articles** produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding are required to be submitted to the NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

Organizations that receive WPO funds are responsible for fully investigating complaints and for **compliance with federal non-discrimination laws, regulations and executive orders**. WPO expects all research organizations to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment-free workplaces wherever science is conducted. A community effort is essential to eliminate sexual and other forms of harassment in science and to build a scientific workspace where people can learn, grow and thrive. For more information on NOAA's **workplace and conduct expectations** of financial award recipients, see <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/noaa-workplace-harassment-training-for-contractors-and-financial>.

REFERENCES

<https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance>
<https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/acquisition>